

fairly common among them. But I kept no notes on the matter. 'Perhaps' says M. B. 'our ancestors were responsible for it (the circling habit) rather than the dogs'.

The purpose of this note is to invite those who can throw light on the subject to do so.

C/O LLOYDS BANK LTD.,  
39 PICCADILLY, W. 1,  
December 11, 1955.

R. W. BURTON,  
Lt.-Col. I.A. (Retd.).

### 3. THE BROW-ANTLERED DEER OR THAMIN (*PANOLIA ELDI THAMIN* THOMAS) IN THE UNION OF BURMA (1955)

The thamin has been declared a completely protected animal under section 6 of the Burma Wild Life Protection Act, 1936, vide Ministry of Agriculture and Forests Notification No. 237 dated the 16th August, 1955.

#### DISTRIBUTION

A survey was conducted by the Conservators of Forests, Northern Circle and Chindwin Circle in their respective circles during 1954. On request by the writer, the Conservators of Forests, Hlaing and Sittang Circles carried out a similar survey in their circles during the current year (1955).

#### Northern Circle

##### West-Katha Division :

There are approximately about 100-150 animals in the unclassified forests along the villages of Ye-Oh, Aingyi-le and Ohne generally known as Phalekwin comprising an area of about 20 square miles and situated in the south-west corner of the Division. The habitat is scrub Indaing jungle dotted with grass patches.

##### East Katha Division :

About 200 animals are in existence in the Division. They are found in all dry places under scrub forests with patches of grass from the foot of Tagaung Hill towards Shwebo Division in the unclassified forests and situated round about Tagaung, Magyigon, Mingon, Kyarhnyat, Pauktabin, Twin-nge and Thabeikkyin along the Irrawaddy covering an area of about 50 square miles in the southern part of the Division.

##### Shwebo Division :

The estimated numbers now in existence are as follows :

Shwebo Range	300
Kanbalu Range	300
Thaw Range	600

The range of this species covers all scrub indaing areas, especially those now constituted as fuel reserves—Thityabin, Thaw and Kyaikthin

reserves lying between the Mu river and Mandalay-Myitkyina railway line, Kyaikthin Fuel Reserve and the surrounding unclassed forests have been constituted as a Thamin Game Sanctuary. Most of the thamin are to be found in this sanctuary. Estimates are prepared from information collected from local villagers.

There are still a fair quantity of thamin distributed along the Mu Valley and also on the east of the Irrawaddy River in the dry scrub forests, and there is at present no anxiety as to its extinction. There is no doubt, however, that as soon as conditions permit, steps should be taken to appoint game staff to prevent further extermination of these rare animals. (Letter dated Maymyo, 5th June 1954 from U Thein, Conservator of Forests, Northern Circle.)

### Chindwin Circle

Lower Chindwin Forest Division:	300-400.
Yaw Forest Division	60.
Minbu Forest Division	300.
Meiktila Forest Division	300.

(Letter dated Maymyo, the 14th July, 1954 from U Mya, Conservator of Forests, Chindwin Circle.)

### Hlaing Circle

Insein Forest Division	Nil.
Tharrawaddy Forest Division	Nil.
Zigon Forest Division	About 30. In Sathwa Reserve. About 25-30.
Prome Forest Division	Thamin moving in groups of 7 or 8 in Tonye Reserve just about 10 miles north of Prome.
Thayetmyo Forest Division	About 200. In scrub jungle between the eastern watershed of Panichaung and Irrawaddy River.
Allanmyo Forest Division	About 300-500. In small groups of 4 or 5 in unclassed forests which is mostly 'Indaing'.

(Letter dated Rangoon, the 21st October 1955, from U Ne Win, Conservator of Forests, Hlaing Circle.)

### Sittang Circle

Yamethin Forest Division 15

A small herd of 6-7 animals seen occasionally near Yan-Aung, south-west of Pyawbwe.

A few pairs occasionally seen about four miles west of Hgnetthaik Railway Station.'

(Letter dated Rangoon, 7th November 1955 from U Thein Han, Conservator of Forests, Sittang Circle.)

## Shwebo Forest Division:

In September 1952, an old Forest Ranger, resident of the area, gave the following estimate:

Shwebo Range	400
Kanbalu Range	300
Thaw Range	600-700

The Divisional Forest Officer gave the following estimate in September 1955:

Kyaikthin Wild Life Sanctuary	500
Shwebo Range	150
Kanbalu Range	250

Kyaikthin Wild Life Sanctuary is situated in Thaw Range. The Divisional Forest Officer has not given an estimate of animals outside the sanctuary.

## Minbu Forest Division:

The estimate of 300 animals was made in 1954, before the re-occupation of Shwezettaw Wild Life Sanctuary in March 1955. As 250 thamin are now reported inside the sanctuary, there may be more than 50 animals outside the sanctuary.

## Thayetmyo Forest Division:

In October 1947, the Divisional Forest Officer gave the same number 200 for the Panichaung area, and from 20-30 animals in the Kama area. A few thamin have also been reported from Ngar-myetnar, Padaung Township. The present estimate does not appear to include the animals in the two areas.

## GENERAL OBSERVATIONS

Lt.-General A. F. Phillip Christisen and Lt.-Col. Edgerby were surprised to come across thamin on two or three occasions during the campaign in Arakan from the autumn of 1943 to May 1945.

Lt.-Col. Edgerby who knows the thamin well, thought it strange to find it on the west coast.

'They seem scarce and very local and confined to the low ground and coastal foothills on either side of the Indo-Burma border where the country in winter is dry and the jungles scrubby and open with grassy hillocks, "Khunai" grass growing on the foothills.' *JBNHS*, Vol. 45 (4) December 1945. Owing to unsettled conditions in the area recent information is not available.

The Arakan Yoma is a natural barrier. 'Thamin from Minbu Forest Division could not possibly have crossed over the Yoma into Arakan. It is therefore possible that the "Thamin" seen by Lt.-General Phillip Christisen may be *Panolia eldi eldi* MacClelland; which had wandered into Arakan from East Pakistan. In his article on The Larger Deer of British India, R. I. Pocock gives the distribution of *Panolia eldi thamin* Thomas as Upper Burma and Lower Burma including Tenasserim; also Siam and probably the Malay Peninsula.' *JBNHS* Vol. 43 (4)—April 1943.

The writer was on a shooting holiday from the middle of March to the middle of May in 1910 on the Tenasserim River. Though he saw large herds of sambar, he never came across any thamin. Neither did he hear of it.

Again in 1914, the writer was on a shooting holiday in the Thayetchaung Township, Tavoy District, during the college summer vacation. No thamin were seen.

I personally doubt if the range of 'Thamin' extends beyond Martaban. This view is strengthened by the following extract from 'Notes on the Fauna, Flora and Minerals of Tenasserim, Pegu and Burma' by Rev. F. Mason, (Stephens Austin & Son, Hertford, 1882). 'Their habitat and range according to Mr. Davis are as follows: In the Martaban District they inhabit exclusively the open grassy plains between the sea and the mountains. In the Pegu plains they are perhaps more abundant than in any other part of Burma; next to them the Yengyaung plains in Martaban produce most; near Rangoon, they are found in the Dallah plain. About Pegu and Yengyaung they are found in herds from fifty to a hundred in the month of March, but when hunted they congregate much more and as many as two hundred may be seen together.'

#### CONCLUSION

There are now approximately 3,000-3,500 thamin in the Union of Burma. *Panolia eldi thamin* Thomas cannot now be said to be a vanishing species. But, as pointed out by the Conservator of Forests, Northern Circle, early appointment of game staff to protect it from further extermination is essential. It is hoped that the Ministry of Agriculture and Forests will not stop at declaring thamin as a completely protected animal, but will continue to see that there is no further illicit shooting of thamin, the beautiful and typical deer of Burma.

RANGOON,  
BURMA.

U TIN YIN, B.C.S. (Retd.)

[U Tun Yin has since informed us that by the subsequent Wild Life Protection (Amendment) Act of 1956 the Government of the Union of Burma has declared the thamin a completely protected species along with rhinoceros, tapir argus pheasant, masked finfoot and peafowl.—EDS.]

#### 4. THE LEAF MONKEY OF KASHMIR VALLEY<sup>1</sup>

Pocock (1939), Fauna of British India, Mammalia, Vol. I, p. 96 was not sure of the identity of the leaf monkey found in Kashmir and he doubtfully included this locality in the distribution of two forms, namely, *Presbylis entellus achilles* (Pocock) and *P. e. ajax* (Pocock) without citing any authority.

<sup>1</sup> Published with the permission of the Director, Zoological Survey of India.